

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
Geagley Laboratory
Gordon Guyer Room
1615 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2005

PRESENT:

James Byrum, Chair, Commission of Agriculture
James Maitland, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Ann Jousma-Miller, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
Douglas Darling, Commission of Agriculture
Dale Norton, Commission of Agriculture
Mitch Irwin, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT: (all or part of the meeting)

Getachew Abate
Dave Armstrong, GreenStone Farm Credit Service
E.J. Brown, Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions
Liesl Clark, MDA
Keith Creagh, MDA
Gina Davis, MDA
Brad Deacon, MDA
James Earl, USDA-APHIS-VS
Sue Esser, MDA
Katherine Fedder, MDA
Barbara Hensinger, MDA
Patrick Heslip, MDA
Mike Kovacic, MSU
Bill Knudsen, MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Patricia Lockwood, MDA
Deb Merrill, MDA
Chris Peterson, MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Ken Rauscher, MDA
Tonia Ritter, Michigan Farm Bureau
Dr. Mike VanderKlok, MDA
Jan Wilford, MDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Byrum called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 9:55 a.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2005. Commissioner

Jousma-Miller called the roll with Commissioners Byrum, Darling, Norton, Jousma-Miller, Maitland and Director Irwin present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER DARLING MOVED APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2005 AGENDA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MAITLAND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER DARLING NOTED A CORRECTION ON PAGE 15 CHANGING THE NAME "HAL NORWOOD" TO "AL NORWOOD". COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 MEETING MINUTES WITH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission of Agriculture is scheduled for December 7, 2005, in Grand Rapids. After a brief discussion regarding changing the meeting to December 6, 2005, it was decided the meeting should remain on December 7, 2005. Commissioner Maitland expressed his apologies that he would be unable to attend the December Commission meeting. Commissioner Darling commented that when possible, it would be a good idea to try and schedule commission meetings to coincide with other industry meetings.

COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL

- November 2, 2005, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Meeting with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Lansing – Commissioner Norton
- November 3-5, 2005 Renewable Energy Tour sponsored by MSU, Sioux Falls, SD - Commissioner Norton
- October 29, 2005 Ag Tourism Commission Meeting, Lansing – Commissioner Jousma-Miller

MOTION: COMMISSIONER DARLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE TRAVEL FOR THE COMMISSIONERS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MAITLAND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Maitland commented that in his area they have experienced an extraordinary fall. Everything was harvested in a timely fashion. Because of the warm weather, apples ripened early. Commissioner Maitland will be representing the Agriculture Commission at the fall meeting of WineAmerica. It is a national organization meeting in Traverse City, which is a good indication of progress the wine industry has made.

There is an international fruit and wine expo planned on January 17-19, 2006 in Traverse City, sponsored by the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Council. This will be very important to the cherry and wine industry.

Commissioner Darling commented that harvest across the state has moved quickly and most people are done far earlier than normal. The crops have been coming out of the field dry, which has saved on drying charges. Energy costs for diesel fuel, harvesting, hauling, etc. has taken away from the bottom line. Yields have been amazing when you look at the crops in July and consider lack of rainfall and high heat units. Yields have been from respectable to record setting. Everyone is scrambling for storage.

Ryan Peterson of Niles, Michigan, was elected National Vice President of the Eastern Region for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA). This is quite an honor, as Michigan has not had a national office holder since 1961. Commissioner Darling praised Mr. Peterson for his hard work and wished him well as he represents the national organization and Michigan.

Commissioner Darling attended a meeting with a number of state legislators and Director Chester from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and members of the agriculture community in Washtenaw County. Discussions centered on agriculture and environmental issue covering a broad scope of issues from fuel storage to water management and manure management. Commissioner Darling encouraged MDEQ to continue to use sound science, economics and history to make decisions.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller commented the biodiesel is an active topic. Representative Kathleen Law has expressed interest in this issue. There is discussion about the possibility of mini agriculture zones for the expansion of that type of facility.

Public hearings will be held in the Upper Peninsula to receive comment on the Proposed Zoning Order for TB Free Status.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller discussed the Agriculture Tourism Commission meeting she attended and was appointed chairperson. Three committees have been set up: zoning; promotion of agriculture tourism; and signage. MDA staff has been assigned to assist each of the committees. There was a great deal of excitement with the new emphasis from the legislature that formed this commission.

She feels the Agri Tourism Commission will give individuals an opportunity to be heard and stated we need to broaden our outlook of agri tourism and possibly preserve some of the family farms by taking a look at alternatives and diversification.

Research is ongoing and some recommendations already being formed. One recommendation was to define "value-added" that may help developing ordinances or adding to existing ordinances.

Commissioner Norton commented that he spent several hours in Lansing on November 2 with Director Irwin, Chairman Byrum, Director Chester (MDEQ) and staff discussing CAFO issues and the proposed permit. He appreciates Director Irwin and Commissioner Byrum's efforts to bring this to the forefront and continuing to work with MDEQ helping them to understand the economic ramifications to the farmer.

Commissioner Norton participated in a tour that Michigan State University, through a grant, arranged for a number of people to visit Laverne, MN and Sioux Falls, SD to look at ethanol plants and wind energy. He relayed highlights of the tour and shared successes in that region. There are possibilities for replicating some of their ideas in Michigan.

Commissioner Byrum commented about the considerable amount of time, discussion and debate he, Director Irwin and Commissioner Norton have been engaged with staff from MDEQ regarding the declaratory ruling and proposed general permit. There is a fair amount of concern in the livestock, poultry and dairy industry about what has been proposed.

He commented about the bi-products of ethanol plants and soybean crushing plants and the need to find uses for those by-products. Transportation will continue to be a challenge as the railroad industry is adamant that they do not want to ship distillers' dried grains (DDGs) in hopper cars because it is difficult to get out of the cars.

Some of the proposed water legislation seen recently is favorable to agriculture.

An estimated 17 to 20 million bushels of grain is being stored in marginal storage facilities because of grain still in storage from 2004 and problems with a grain facility and competition for rail cars to move grain due to the hurricanes in the south.

He commented briefly about a variety of subjects including the takeover attempt by Agrium of Royster-Clark; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget cuts; the number of biodiesel plants being planned; farm bill debate; pending seed and fertilizer legislation; and the Food Policy Council looking at a variety of issues.

He shared some of his recent trade trips including the trip to Cuba with Director Irwin, President Wood of Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) and others. Cuba has signed an agreement with Michigan to buy \$10,000,000 worth of agricultural commodities in the next 18 months. He commented that the agriculture industry has a unique opportunity to move forward with marketing, expansion and other ways of increasing agriculture viability.

RESOLUTION HONORING PATRICK HESLIP

Director Irwin and Chairperson Byrum presented a resolution for retirement of Patrick Heslip from the Department of Agriculture after 30 years of dedicated service to the dairy industry and 11 years with MDA.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION RESOLUTION FOR PATRICK HESLIP ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM STATE SERVICE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Irwin commented that focus over the last month has been in three principle areas: budget challenges; doing more with less in the agriculture development program including domestic and international; and regulatory relationship building and regulatory issue management with MDEQ.

Director Irwin continued to focus on the areas of key priorities: protection of the food supply; promotion of Michigan agricultural products and environmental stewardship and farmland preservation.

MDA staff has been continuing to advocate for support for programs that have had challenges, for example the Food & Dairy Inspection Program;

the Agriculture Development Promotion budget; and emergency preparedness. Staff is looking at all sources, state, private and foundation support and partnerships. Every effort that has been made by member of the Agriculture Commission to support these efforts are appreciated.

MDA has been asked to identify an additional 5% reduction for the next fiscal year. That budget will be presented in late January or early February 2006. Our response is being prepared and it will be a struggle.

Much work has been done over the past few months on the assessment of the state of the agriculture industry in Michigan and will be reviewed later in the meeting showing growth across the board. This information should be used to help sell the potential for Michigan agriculture and help grow the economy in Michigan.

Director Irwin talked briefly about written Commission Policies and the need to review them on a yearly basis.

He also commented on the success of the Agriculture Renaissance Zones. Work is continuing with the legislature to expand the number of Agriculture Renaissance Zones as a part of Grow Michigan strategy outlined by Governor Granholm.

Work is also continuing on the securitization package. MDA was asked and provided information to the Senate. Through the legislative process there is an absolute goal of a commitment to that future jobs program highlighting bio technology, life sciences, and alternative fuels. Agriculture is a key component. Additionally, there was a \$10 million dollar earmark put in by amendment to go to the Jullian-Stille Economic Development Fund.

MDA staff is continuing to contribute to workgroups on water resource legislation and food processing.

There are three principle areas of development in agriculture development: assessment and inventory of the agriculture industry; domestic sales (Select Michigan); and international trade. There continues to be a challenge for funding for the domestic program, but it continues to be an exiting partnership with the commodity groups.

A meeting was recently held with the Super Bowl Committee. Ideas were generated and proposed to the Committee for ways to utilize Michigan food and wine products.

A representative from the Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO) will be coming to Michigan on November 21. MIATCO provides funding for generic support of commodity promotion at various food shows and the branding program.

Chairman Byrum and MFB President Wayne Wood have initiated and co-sponsor a series of focus group, brain-storming sessions with agriculture producers. Participants will be asked for their opinions about what is being done in Michigan that can be helpful or remove barriers to the growth and development. There will be a variety of groups represented.

Director Irwin commented that he is excited about the potential for the Agri-Tourism Commission.

He also discussed MDA's participation in the upcoming Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Director Irwin shared information about the recently completed trip to Cuba. It was a great example of a public-private partnership led by Michigan Agri-Business Association and Michigan Farm Bureau. Specific needs identified included dairy, dry beans, potatoes, peaches, apples and a variety of other products. Negotiations are ongoing. There is great opportunity in Mexico and Latin America for Michigan products.

Michigan exports one third of its products worth \$916 million dollars.

DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL

- October 29-November 1, 2005, Cuba, meeting with Cuban officials regarding Michigan exports (time and out-of-state only)

MOTION: COMMISSIONER DARLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE TRAVEL FOR THE DIRECTOR. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPPER PENINSULA TB FREE STATUS/PROPOSED ZONING ORDER AND ANIMAL INDUSTRY UPDATE: Dr. Mike VanderKlok, TB Unit Manager, Animal Industry Division; Brad Deacon, Emergency Management Coordinator and Department Hearings Officer

Dr. VanderKlok commented that the TB Program has experienced a great deal of success over the last few years. This has been recognized several times by USDA. A new packet of educational information is being put together and will be sent to Commissioners. Dr. VanderKlok shared information about the success with the cattle population. There has not

been an infected cattle herd in 18 months. There is currently a herd in the testing process.

An educational program is currently in effect with a new portion about preventing the spread of Bovine TB. The basic concept is that feeding of deer transmits Bovine TB and it has to stop. Not only intentional (recreational feeding and baiting of deer for hunting purposes) but unintentional feeding by farmers.

MDA has developed a very good partnership with USDA Wildlife Services over the past few years to look at the interface of wildlife and cattle, particularly in response to Bovine TB, but can probably expand this into other areas of disease. Approximately 100 herds have been identified in the 5 county core area to have Wildlife Services personnel go out and work with the farms to identify where they are, what is around them, management practices and what they might be able to do to protect themselves from the small amount of spill-over from deer to cattle. This would be the final step in the program.

There has been overwhelming support from the industry. The goal is to be able to get on all 600 farms by next summer.

There has been a lot of interest from other states as well.

Dr. VanderKlok referenced the Draft Proposed Zoning Order the Commission had been sent. This offers an opportunity to recognize successes in the program and also to move the program along consistently with USDA. On September 30, 2005, USDA published an Interim Rule recognizing the Upper Peninsula as Bovine TB Free Status. MDA moved quickly to begin the zoning process. Dr. VanderKlok identified changes from the initial zoning order from June 2004 recognizing Michigan's first split state status.

Mr. Deacon explained that the information presented was advisory to the Commission to start the process and welcomed comments. Under the Animal Industry Act, the zoning order would come under the Director's signature.

Public hearings are scheduled over the next two months to accept public comment. Locations include Kalamazoo, Sandusky, MFB Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, at least two meetings in the Upper Peninsula in early December, three meetings in northeast and northwest lower Michigan, and opportunity for further comment at the December 7 Agriculture

Commission meeting in Grand Rapids. Notices will be published in newspapers and other notices out ahead of time.

Proposed action will be presented at the January Commission meeting.

Commissioner Darling asked how many states were not recognizing the TB Free Status in the UP due to language in their own state laws. Dr. VanderKlok stated that there are seven states that are primary trading partners (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, North Dakota and Iowa). There has been success in six states in accepting and changing their laws to adjust to recognize the changing status in Michigan and work is continuing with Wisconsin to accept the Michigan changes.

Chairperson Byrum asked the Commission to review the draft resolution pertaining to Avian Influenza Preparedness for discussion after lunch.

Dr. VanderKlok briefly discussed the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Program in the captive cervid industry and status of the program. The working group is currently working on recommendations.

Currently there is a moratorium on the importation of privately owned cervids.

Keith Creagh, MDA Deputy Director, commented about a privately owned cervid workgroup that is finishing their recommendations and will be before the Commission in December. There was a letter sent to those in the cervid industry that have not participated in the mandatory CWD Surveillance Program. The State Veterinarian is preparing to send out a notice and is asking for the Commission to re-memorize the current moratorium on the ban for importation of cervids into the state until there is appropriate testing done to ensure there are no diseases in those live animals.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT BAN* ON THE IMPORTATION OF PRIVATELY OWNED CAPTIVE CERVIDS INTO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. COMMISSIONER MAITLAND SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(*Current ban dated April 26, 2002 is included as Attachment M.)

GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK SHOW PREMIUMS: Barbara Hensinger, Director, Fairs, Exhibitions & Racing Division

Ms. Hensinger explained that last year, several of the livestock show exhibitors came to the Department with problems about continued funding and livestock competitive grants. A workgroup comprised of different aspects of the industry met and developed recommended guidelines. The FY'06 budget bill contains language about a premium program for livestock shows. In that language, it states that MDA will define which livestock shows are eligible to participate in the premium program.

Ms. Hensinger reviewed the Guidelines for Livestock Show Premiums that had been previously sent to the Commission for review. The document outlines the proposal from the workgroup committee. In response to questions from the Commission, Ms. Hensinger stated that these guidelines redefine the number of participants.

Commissioner Byrum suggested the guidelines be accepted and held for public comment and/action until the December meeting.

COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE POLICY REVIEW: Keith Creagh, Deputy Director

Mr. Creagh reviewed the current Commission Policies with suggested edits for Commission review. Commissioners will review and forwards changes and comments to staff for incorporation. Commissioners will vote on changes at the December meeting.

Mr. Creagh requested immediate action on a new Commission Policy regarding the ability to determine non-compliance to a GAAMP due to denied access to the farm.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO ADOPT A POLICY ESTABLISHING THAT NON-ACCESS TO A FARM UNDER A GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPS) REVIEW WOULD AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN A DETERMINATION THAT THE FARM IS IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE GAAMPS DEVELOPED UNDER THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON.

In response to a question from Commission Norton about the “down-side” of this type of policy, Mr. Creagh stated that it would be incumbent on MDA to work with the producer to understand the ramifications of denying access to the farm.

Commissioner Byrum suggested that written communication with the producer advising them that non-access would constitute non-compliance.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Liesl Clark, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Clark distributed a synopsis of the current package of Senate water bills and discussed the focus of each bill.

Commission Byrum commented that this is the most “ag friendly” water legislation ever presented.

Ms. Clark briefly reviewed bills before the House and Senate including the seed bill, ag security areas, property tax exemption, lighting of farm equipment, SBT elimination of corporate farm credit, right to process, wind tax credit, drain code and securitization.

There is some movement in rule promulgation bills for MDA changing rule promulgation status in a couple of statutes from “shall” to “may”.

MDA staff gave a presentation to the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee highlighting Emergency Management and Emerald Ash Borer.

There is continuing negotiations with the methane digesters bill.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

December meeting agenda issues:

Final approval of the Proposed 2006 Agriculture Commission Meeting Dates (please note any conflicts or suggestions); a required action on the Ag Preservation Fund; ad on the agenda whether an action is required from the Commission.

Commissioner Byrum asked the Commissioners to identify agenda items three weeks prior to a commission meeting and that the information packets are sent out a week before the scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller commented that she appreciated being notified of upcoming industry events.

Commissioner Byrum stated concerns about potential transportation issues for all aspects of agriculture. Cost of fuel, changes of class one railroad operations being sold to short line railroads, trucking, and water transportation all hold potential problems.

Commissioner Darling thanked Director Irwin and Commissioners Byrum and Norton for their work on CAFO issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tonia Ritter, Michigan Farm Bureau, commented briefly about several issues. She stated that MFB is excited about the opportunities with the securitization bills, renewable energy and the additional dollars for the Jullian-Stille Value Added program

Budget continues to be of concern and MFB is working to make contacts with the legislature and others in the executive office to reinforce how important agriculture is to the state of Michigan from an economic standpoint and how MDA has already been cut. MFB is also continuing to push for a supplemental bill.

MFB is supportive of moving forward with the TB Free Status. There is some concern about how the administration of the premises ID and tracking of movement will actually take place. They want to make sure it is a functional program from the beginning and that producers are educated and understand how it will work.

Ms. Ritter stated that MFB would be supportive of the proposed policy regarding GAAMP non-compliance with the understanding that there be written communication and more than one attempt to gain access to the property.

Ms. Ritter commented that MFB appreciate MDA's involvement and support of agriculture in the water discussions.

Pat Lockwood responded to a question from Commissioner Darling about new federal funding for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Ken Rauscher commented that the Brimley cut has been completed a week a head of schedule and under budget. All EAB traps have been negative.

Director Irwin introduced Bridget Medina, MDA's new Public Information Officer.

RECESS:

The meeting was recessed at 12:10 p.m.

RECONVENE:

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

A brief discussion ensued regarding 2006 meeting dates.

RESOLUTION AVIAN INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

Commissioner Byrum reviewed the draft resolution for avian influenza preparedness. A discussion about migration and random testing ensued in response to a question from Commissioner Norton.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION RESOLUTION REGARDING AVIAN INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MAITLAND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STATE OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMY IN MICHIGAN, PRESENTATION OF MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 2004-2005: David Kleweno, Director, USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office

Mr. Kleweno reviewed the annual statistical summary, a partnership between USDA and MDA. He reviewed 2004 agriculture highlights. It was a record year in many respects. The number of farms remained the same, while farm gate receipts hit a historic record of \$4.3 billion. Milk prices were 28 percent above the previous year, while livestock prices were also strong. Corn was equally as strong, while other grains were not. Vegetables were somewhat mixed with a 5.6 percent increase overall. Fruits realized an 18 percent increase. Blueberries took over the number one spot for fruits in 2005. Floriculture was also up nine percent.

Milk still ranks number one for production commodity, approximately 25 percent of cash receipts. Michigan is still number one in many varieties of dry beans, blueberries, tart cherries, cucumbers and potted plants. Michigan ranks 22 in value of cash receipts. Soybeans, feed grains and vegetables are the leading exports, mostly to Canada.

The booklet also contains the MDA Annual Report.

There was an 11% increase in farm gate receipts.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller asked if it would be possible to look at some statistics relative to agriculture tourism related issues. Mr. Kleweno replied that they are happy to consider it. He suggested directing the request through MDA.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE: Chris Peterson, MSU's Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources; Robert Craig, MDA, Agriculture Development Division; Dave Armstrong, Greenstone Farm Credit Service

Mr. Peterson distributed an *Interim Report on the Status and Potential of The Economic Impact of Michigan's Agri-Food System*. The total economic impact is estimated to be \$59.1 billion when both the direct (\$35.3 billion) and indirect impacts are considered. He discussed data sources and how the figures were arrived at.

He reviewed several tables of information and discussed economic impact of selected agriculture production and processing facilities and potential development opportunities by selected agri-food sectors.

Mr. Craig distributed a description of the 17 Michigan Agriculture Processing Renaissance Zones. These projects have committed to creating 1,166 new jobs and \$547 million in private investment.

He also discussed the current status of ethanol plants in the state. There are at least two more proposed ethanol plants that want to come into Michigan. One is in southwest Michigan and one in mid-Michigan, similar development. Mr. Craig distributed a brochure developed by the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan about ethanol. This document discusses the corn supply, corn to ethanol plants, how much is used, etc.

Mr. Craig stated that we are nearly out of corn for more ethanol plants and discussed some of the issues related to additional economic development.

He shared information from a consulting firm about a study entitled "An Assessment of the opportunities and Potential of the Emerging Biobased Economy" that Michigan will be participating in, along with a paper company in Muskegon. This feasibility study and research may show that ethanol can be produced from wood and other agricultural biomass resources (e.g. straw, switch grass).

Commissioner Norton shared information he learned about a co-op in Minnesota that is looking into bio-based energy.

Mr. Armstrong presented a PowerPoint about GreenStone Farm Credit Service, highlighting their role in financing Michigan agriculture. Key focus areas for GreenStone Farm Credit Service are: agricultural producers and rural entrepreneurs; agriculturally related businesses; agriculture and rural partners and rural infrastructure.

He reviewed figures of agriculture related lending over the last five years and discussed trends, future projections and barriers in the lending arena.

PUBLIC COMMENT

E.J. Brown, Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions (MAFE), commented that carnivals owner/operators would like to have a workshop or meeting during MAFE's convention in January with the biodiesel industry. They would like to discuss partnership possibilities and how carnival operators can take advantage of the biodiesel industry in Michigan. They will be working with Bob Craig to get that set up.

With a number of other partners in Michigan (including Michigan Farm Bureau, MDA's Food & Dairy, Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing, and Animal Industry Divisions, MSU Extension, MSU Veterinary School) MAFE will be having an "E. coli and More/Livestock Facilities and Food Handling Workshop", March 24, 2006. The issues covered will include food handling, livestock handling and petting zoo issues.

MAFE is also working very closely with MDA's Food & Dairy Division regarding all the 600 food concession licensees in Michigan. In addition, the National Independent Food Concessionaires Association from Florida will be in Michigan in January to attend a meeting with the Michigan licensees and MDA staff.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MAITLAND SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Attachments:

- A – Agenda
- B – Agriculture Commission Meeting Minutes September 22, 2005
- C – Director's Report – August 2005
- D – Draft Proposed 2006 Commission Meeting Dates
- E – Retirement Resolution for Patrick Heslip
- F – Draft Proposed Zoning Order for Bovine Tuberculosis
Avian Influenza Animal Health Preparedness October 2005
Avian Influenza Animal Health Preparedness November 2005
- G – Resolution: Avian Influenza Preparedness
- H – Draft Guidelines for Livestock Show Premiums October 2005
- I – Michigan Commission of Agriculture Draft Policy Review
- J – Legislative Report – November 2005

- K – Opportunities for Michigan Agriculture*
Interim Report on the Status and Potential of The Economic Impact of Michigan's Agri-Food System – November 9, 2005
Ag Processing Renaissance Zones Description
Informa Economics Letter of September 15, 2005 regarding "An Assessment of the Opportunities and Potential of the Emerging Biobased Economy"
GreenStone Farm Credit Services Brochure
Greenstone Farm Credit Services PowerPoint
Greenstone Farm Credit Services Partners Fall 2005
Corn Check Off Report and Newsletter Summer 2005
The Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources First Annual Report 2004-2005
- L – Commissioners' Issues*
The Mackinac November 2005-January 2006
- M – April 26, 2002 Moratorium On All Live Deer and Elk Imports Into Michigan*